

Serial No. 10/792,159
Applicant: Robert C. Berfield
Third Preliminary Amendment
Dated: September 26, 2005
Attorney's Case No. 1-763
Confirmation No.: 3766

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously amended): A holder for vacuum cleaner tools comprising:

a flat, central panel formed of stiffly flexible material, the central panel having a top edge, a bottom edge and opposed ends; two first end panels, each end panel located at one end of the central panel; two first hinges, each hinge joining one end panel to the central panel at one end thereof, wherein the end panels may be rotated relative to the central panel to facilitate attachment of the holder to a support; the central panel including at least one upwardly extending tool retention finger, each finger located in the central panel between the panel top and bottom edges and having a base joining the central panel at the bottom of the finger, a tip at the top of the finger, a flexible body extending between the base and tip, and a finger edge extending around the finger; the central panel including a panel edge extending around each finger; each finger having an unstressed position located substantially within the central panel and a flexed position located to one side of the central panel, wherein each finger, when in

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the flexed position, clamps a tubular end of a vacuum cleaner tool between the finger edge and the panel edge.

2. (original): The holder as in claim 1 including a slit extending around each finger.

3. (original): The holder as in claim 1 including a slot at each side of each finger.

4. (original): The holder as in claim 3 wherein the slots at one finger have lower ends located at different levels.

5. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein said central panel is outwardly bowed between said ends thereof.

6. (original): The holder as in claim 5 including two fingers; and a slot at each side of each such finger, the slots at each finger having lower ends at different levels.

7. (original): The holder as in claim 1 including a tool support loop attached to said central panel above at least one of said fingers.

8. (original): The holder as in claim 7 wherein said loop includes loop sides extending away from the central panel and a mounting tab on the end of each loop side adjacent said central panel; and mounting members attaching said tabs to said panel.

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9. (original): The holder as in claim 8 wherein said tabs extend inwardly toward each other.

10. (original): The holder as in claim 8 wherein said tabs extend outwardly away from each other.

11. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein said body includes two second end panels and two second hinges; each said second hinge joining one of said second end panels to one of said first end panels.

12. (original): The holder as in claim 1 including a pair of holder supports, each holder support including a mounting panel and a pair of arm panels attached to the mounting panel; each first end panel located between the pair of arm panels of one of said holder support members; and including attachment members securing each such first end panel to one of said holder supports.

13. (original): The holder as in claim 1 including a vacuum cleaner hose support loop; and a loop attachment member joining the loop to the central panel, said loop located below the bottom edge of the central panel and substantially to one side of the central panel.

14. (original): The holder as in claim 13 wherein said central panel is bowed outwardly between said ends thereof, said support loop located substantially on the concave side of the central panel.

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15. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein the tip of each finger is located to one side of the central panel when the finger is in the unstressed position.

16. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein the central panel is about 16 inches long, about 6 inches high and about 1/8 inch thick.

17. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein said material comprises a thermoplastic.

18. (original): The holder as in claim 1 wherein said central panel, end panels and first hinges comprise an integral body of stiffly flexible thermoplastic.

19. (previously amended): A holder for items having tubular ends, the holder comprising a first panel formed from a stiffly flexible material, said panel including a top edge, a bottom edge and at least one upwardly extending tool retention finger located in the panel between the panel top and bottom edges, the finger having a base joining the panel at the bottom of the finger, opposed sides, a tip at the top of the finger, a flexible body extending between the base and the tip wherein the finger may be flexed to locate the tip to one side of the panel, and a finger edge extending up from the base at one side of the finger to the tip and down to the base at the other side of the finger; the panel including a panel edge extending around the finger adjacent

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said finger edge; each finger having an unstressed position located substantially within the panel and a flexed position with the tip located to one side of the panel, wherein the tubular end of an item positioned over a flexed finger is clamped to the panel between the finger edge and the panel edge at each side of the finger.

20. (original): The holder as in claim 19 including a slot in the panel at each side of each finger.

21. (original): The holder as in claim 19 including a slot in the panel extending around each finger.

22. (original): The holder as in claim 19 wherein said panel includes opposed ends, each panel end extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, and including a panel mounting member at each said panel end.

23. (original): The holder as in claim 22 wherein each panel mounting member comprises an end panel; and including a hinge joining each end panel to the first panel, said first panel, hinges and end panels comprising an integral body of stiffly flexible thermoplastic.

24. (original): The holder as in claim 19 wherein the tip of one finger when in the unstressed position is located to one side of the panel.

25. (original): The holder as in claim 19 wherein said first panel is outwardly bowed and the fingers are

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located on the concave side of the bowed panel when in the flexed position.

26. (original): The holder as in claim 19 including a support preform overlying one side of the first panel; a first joint joining the support preform to the first panel; a strap overlying the other side of the first panel; and a second joint joining the strap to the first panel.

27. (original): The holder as in claim 19 wherein said first panel, said support preform, said strap and said joints comprise an integral body of thermoplastic.

28. (original): The holder as in claim 19 including a recess in said top edge located over one of said fingers.

29. (original): A tool holder for mounting tools of the type having tubular lower ends, the holder having horizontally spaced apart ends, a bottom edge and a top edge, a lower band extending across the holder between the ends thereof at the bottom edge, an upper band extending across the holder between the ends thereof at the top edge, the upper band located above the lower band, one or more tool engaging fingers on the lower band, each finger extending upwardly from the lower band, wherein when the tool holder is mounted on a wall with the bands spaced outwardly from the wall the tubular end of a tool may be lowered from above the holder between the wall and the upper

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band and over a finger on the lower band so that the upper band prevents the tool holder from tipping outwardly from the wall and falling away from the holder.

30. (original): The holder as in claim 29 wherein said upper band is located a distance above said lower band.

31. (original): The holder as in claim 30 wherein each finger extends upwardly from the top of the lower band.

32. (original): The holder as in claim 29 wherein each band is formed from thin stiffly flexible material, and each finger is integral with said lower band.

33. (original): The holder as in claim 32 wherein said bands form part of an integral plastic panel.

34. (original): The holder as in claim 33 wherein said bands are spaced apart vertically.

35. (original): The holder as in claim 33 including an integral connection between the top of the lower band and the bottom of the upper band.

36. (original): The holder as in claim 33 wherein said bands are bowed outwardly away from the wall.

37. (original): The holder as in claim 29 wherein each finger extends upwardly from the top of the lower band and said fingers are integral with the lower panel.

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38. (original): The holder as in claim 29 including a pair of end panels, each end panel joining one end of the holder.

39. (original): The holder as in claim 38 wherein said holder comprises a central panel; and said central and said end panels are formed from an integral body of stiffly flexible plastic.

40. (original): The holder as is claim 39 wherein each finger includes a finger edge; and including a panel edge adjacent each finger edge; wherein the lower end of a tool mounted on a finger is held between said edges.

41. (currently amended): A holder for supporting tools having tubular portions; the holder comprising an integral body of stiffly flexible thermoplastic material, the body having a central panel defining horizontally spaced apart edges and including a plurality of upwardly extending tool-holding fingers, each finger having a tip at the top of the finger free of the panel and a base at the bottom of the finger, each finger joined to the panel at the base thereof; two mounting members, each mounting member joined to the panel at one panel edge thereof to mount the holder to a wall or to two adjacent studs spaced apart on a wall; wherein bowing of the panel outwardly from a wall locates the fingers a distance from the wall to permit tubular

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portions of tools to be positioned on the fingers so that the tools are held in generally upright positions between the bowed panel and the wall, and bowing of the panel spaces the mounting members apart a distance appropriate for mounting to the wall or to two adjacent studs spaced apart on the wall to retain the panel bowed outwardly from the wall independent of the distance between the mounting members when mounted to the wall or studs varying the amount of panel bow allows varying the mounting distance on the wall or to two adjacent studs on the wall.

42. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 wherein one finger is located at the top of the panel.

43. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 wherein one finger is located between the top and bottom of the panel.

44. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 wherein each mounting member comprises a mounting panel and including a plastic hinge joining each mounting panel to one central panel edge.

45. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 including a slit extending around one finger between the finger and the body.

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46. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 including a slot extending around one finger between the finger and the body.

47. (previously added): The holder as in claim 41 wherein said mounting members are integral with said body.

48. (previously added): The holder as in claim 47 including a hinge between each mounting member and the panel.